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Trinity Flash Newsletter, March 1944

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TRINITY

FLASH

Sixth Edition - March 1944
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"Earth changes, but thy souls and God stand sure."--Browning

A Note from our Pastor, Rev. R. J. Ongna
As this issue is being prepared we are aware that Easter is less than a month away - April 9, 1944. We therefore want to assure you that a special Easter number is being prepared and will be sent out very soon after Easter. Since some of you will not receive this issue until about Easter time we want to include our Easter Greetings now. We hope that you will be able to spend a few moments at least in some Chapel or other place of worship or be able to hear some Easter music and message over a sound system. For those who are on the actual battlefield and see death and destruction round about we especially wish the comforting assurance of the love and presence of the Risen Christ. We hope that this issue will assure you that we are trying to keep the home fires burning and the Church a fellowship of Christians where the heart and mind are fed with the Gospel of a Living Lord.

NEWS ITEMS

From Italy we have received word that Pvt. Mike Westra has been promoted to Sgt.

Sgt. Bob Malisch, who has been fighting with the Rangers in Italy has been wounded for the second time. A "sticky bomb" exploded, making it necessary to amputate his left foot. He expects to come back to America soon.

Seaman Frank Heemstra has been transferred to the Great Lakes Naval Training Station.

Sgt. James Mulder, tail gunner in a B-17 Bomber has left the country, but his destination is a military secret.

Pvt. Al Heemstra has arrived safely in Australia.

Pvt. Ray Wierda has been in the hospital a couple weeks now undergoing a physical check up.

Cpl. Bob Vis was in the hospital on account of stomach trouble but has again been released.

Sometime ago as Lt. Ralph Mouw was at a certain camp in England, a corporal stopped in front of him and said, "I think I know you sir". He was right. The soldier was Cpl. Stanley Van Pelt. (Tinny).

Marilyn Kay, the little daughter of Sgt. and Mrs. L. E. Van Wyk was baptized by her grandfather, Dr. E. Parkes, at the manse in Langford, S. D. on Feb. 17. The grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. H. L. Van Wyk were present to witness the sacred rite. On Feb. 25, the baby's father was again at Fort Bliss, Texas.

In the "Home Front News" published by the Second Christian Reformed Church we read this item of interest, written by Clara Van Der Wal, who is in the W.A.C. We quote from that paper - "Several weeks ago I ran into Les Foreman with whom I used to attend High School in O. C. He had just flown from Monroe, La. We had a long chat and later I cleared him for the takeoff."

Alfred Aalberts and Mert Kraai have been drafted and they are leaving Monday to be inducted into the Navy. Donald Foreman has also been drafted. He is to leave for induction into the Army on Wednesday morning. For the above we say "God bless you men as you join your comrades in Service. Our prayers will follow you".

HAPPENINGS AT HOME

Birthday Party:

The Consistory and their wives held a birthday party in honor of Mr. Hubert Muilenburg on Feb. 29. Being born on that date he has celebrated only 13 birthdays. Having served as Trinity Church Treasurer for 13 years the Consistory felt it fitting to show appreciation for his work. Rev. Ongna composed the following poem for the occasion.

It is quite a thing to be able to say
At so soon a time as a 13th birthday;
His talent he has given in good full measure,
For 13 years as our General Church Treasurer.

Now one of the things he has to do,
Is to keep the figures exact and true.
That he has done in a wonderful way,
We are grateful for it - we want to say.

On his 13th birthday for 13 years of loving service good and true,
We have come to celebrate, to give wishes and a gift too
But the figures, you say, they will never do!
I'll tell you the secret--He is 52.

Choir Director:

It is a joy and privilege to be a member of our Choir. A complete new organization has been formed and a new director has accepted the position. Mrs. George Van Roekel is working very hard with the group. Mr. Hubert Muilenburg and Mr. Alfred Aalberts have been doing fine work in directing before this. Their work has been appreciated very much.

Funeral of Mrs. P. G. De Jong:

Mrs. P. G. De Jong (Martha), died on Feb. 16, 1944, at the age of 67 years. She had been an invalid for several years. At the funeral service Rev. Ongna spoke on one of her favorite texts, Psalm 17:15 "As for me, I will behold Thy face in righteousness, I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with Thy likeness".

"VICTORY THROUGH CHRIST"

On the evening of February 6, our C. E. Society held a convention in miniature which was based on the theme, "Victory Through Christ". The call to worship, song service, devotions, numbers of special music, and the closing moments were all conducted by different members of the society. During the course of the evening two classes were held, one for the girls and one for the boys. Mrs. J. Heemstra delivered the very inspiring convention address. Every individual enjoyed very much to learn a new chorus, the theme song "Victory". At this meeting special recognition and a word of welcome was given to seven new members. Because of the absence of so many of you Servicemen, our organization is now composed of younger members.

Mrs. J. G. Mouw gave the girls' class an interesting discussion on "Victory in Marriages". Examples of successful and marriage failures were given. Successful marriages are the result of victorious living for God. "What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder".

Paul Muyskens, the chairman of the boys' class, introduced Mr. Peter Van Roekel who led the discussion of the topic--"From Youth to Manhood". He stressed the importance of exercising obedience from the years of twelve and up. He suggested that "you cannot drive a boy but you may lead him". Youth is the time to begin striving for a noble manhood. In answer to the question, What is true manhood?, he said, "Man must BE great before he can DO great things". If he is great, he only needs the opportunity to prove himself.

The above talks were interesting and helpful. After these class periods the entire society again met as one body to hear the "Convention in Miniature" address which was given by Mrs. Jacob Heemstra. A resume of that address follows, as handed in by a C. E. reporter.

Mar. 44

VICTORY THROUGH CHRIST

Christian Endeavor conventions are very important to C. E. work. C. E. means more than Christian Endeavor. It also means Confirmed Enthusiasm or Consecrated Energy.

The V-symbol meaning Victory was introduced by Churchill and now we hear a lot about Victory Gardens, wear Victory pins, etc. Since Christ died on the cross the Christian's victory sign is the Cross. Some people struggle for riches, some for power and some for fame but we must remember the admonition in Scripture "What is a man profited if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul".

Man can receive power through Christ to overcome temptation. By divine grace a man who is selfish and worldly and godless can be completely changed. We are "more than conquerors through Him who loved us". Without Christ we are powerless. Just as there must be a connection between the trolley car and the power house, so prayer is our connecting link with the power house of God. The lives of outstanding men bear testimony that the secret of their spiritual strength came when through God they found the power for their lives, and through them God wrought wondrous things.

Prayer is the best preparation for a busy day. All may keep the "Quiet Hour" and receive strength from God. No matter how busy Jesus was he always had perfect poise because he kept his time of retirement for prayer.

Christ is even victor over death and the grave. The Christian doesn't fear death because the life he lives now is only a preparation for eternal life. Jesus said "I am the resurrection and the life". In the light of eternity we have a new sense of the value and purpose of life. A man on a train was asked what his business was. He said "My main purpose is serving the Lord but I sell shoes to pay expenses".

Through Christ we are victors over self, over the world and over death. In the C. E. Pledge we promise "to do whatever he would have me do". This is possible if we trust in the Lord for strength. Paul said "I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me". If God is our partner we can make our plans large.

Lord God of hosts, whose mighty hand
Dominion holds on sea and land,
In peace and war thy will we see
Shaping the larger liberty;
Nations may rise and nations fall,
Thy changeless purpose rules them all.

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